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SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I. CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II. EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III. SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV. EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V. NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI. LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

(continued on back of report)

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 APRIL 1987

Syria

Al-Asad in Moscow — President Hafiz al-Asad was "warmly welcomed" by CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev on his arrival in the Kremlin 23 April and the two leaders began talks the following morning, TASS reported. A Damascus radio commentary spoke of the "extreme importance" of Al-Asad's visit, linking the talks with the need to strengthen cooperation with the USSR and bolster the Arab position in the face of the "terrorism" and threats of "new expansionist moves" by Israel and the United States.

FRG Relations — Syria and the FRG have normalized relations after a 5-month period of "frostiness," DPA reported, noting that a new FRG ambassador has assumed duties in Damascus while a new Syrian ambassador is expected to arrive in Bonn shortly.

Alleged Contact With Israel — The Egyptian agency MENA claimed that an adviser to President al-Asad held talks with an Israeli representative in Vienna at the beginning of April.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak welcomed the new People's Assembly in an inaugural speech broadcast by Cairo radio, telling deputies that they obtained their seats in "free and honest elections that were not desecrated by illegal falsehoods nor diverted from their course by willful caprices." The new parliament must not ignore problems but it must not allow "bigoted partisan views" to create problems, he said, adding that "we are called upon to free ourselves from partisan interests." On foreign policy, Mubarak denied the "immature and irresponsible" report by a partisan paper which attempted to "distort" and "falsify" facts by claiming that Egypt will change its friendship and inclinations because "a specific state" turned down Egypt's economic demands. Those who published this "demagoguery" should realize that Egypt does not swing or oscillate in its policies, the president stressed, adding that "we will not turn our backs on a friendly country just because another state has shown sympathy toward us."

Israel

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the Labor Party Central Committee that the future of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip remains "open" and he stressed that it will be necessary for Israel to accept a "substantial territorial compromise" in Judaea and Samaria, Jerusalem radio reported. The settlements of Alfe Menashe and Ari'el are located on land over which negotiations will be held when the time comes, Rabin asserted. The party endorsed Rabin's view by issuing a resolution that said the future of Jewish settlements in densely populated Arab areas of Judaea and Samaria should be resolved in negotiations with Jordan, while settlements in the Jordan rift valley and on the northern border should have priority over other settlements for security reasons.

In contrast, the radio broadcast Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statement to settlers in Alfe Menashe that for Israel's defense commitment, "there is no difference between the residents of Kefar Sava and those of Alfe Menashe." "In light of what has been said," he added, "it will be necessary to increase the number of settlements as well."

As for the related Likud-alignment dispute over an international conference, Jerusalem radio disclosed that Likud minister Moshe Arens will try to win U.S. Jewish support for Shamir's opposition to the conference during his current U.S. visit. Shamir's office viewed the PLO's abrogation of the accord with Jordan as "another nail in the coffin of the international conference" because King Husayn will not dare come to negotiations without the PLO, *Yedi'ot Aharonot* reported. Regarding Jordan's stand on the international conference, an Israeli official cited by *Davar* said Jordan has withdrawn some of its conditions on the authority to be given to the conference and has come over to the view that the conference will serve only as a framework and an opening for direct negotiations.

Lebanon

Further Israeli Raids — Israeli helicopters launched another attack on "terrorist" targets south of Sidon 23 April, Jerusalem radio reported. Palestinian sources cited by Beirut radio stated that 16 people were injured in Israeli raids on 'Ayn al-Hulwah and other areas near Sidon. The helicopters fired rockets at targets that included buildings belonging to the PFLP-GC and the PPSF, Voice of Lebanon radio noted. The IDF had earlier repulsed a "terrorist" squad trying to penetrate Israel's security zone in Lebanon, according to Jerusalem radio.

Ministerial Meeting — A number of Christian and Muslim ministers held talks at the Mansur Palace in Beirut, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported, citing former President Camille Sham'un's view that the atmosphere of the talks was "encouraging."

Tunisia

Muslim militants rioted in central Tunis 23 April, attacking tourists and police vehicles, Paris radio reported. The rioters shouted slogans against President Habib Bourguiba and demanded the release of Islamic Tendency Movement leader Rachid Ghannouchi, who was arrested last month. TAP reported the incident the following day, stating that security forces had intervened swiftly to disperse a group of students who were trying to create "disturbances and anarchy." Two security men were injured and a number of demonstrators were arrested, the agency revealed.

Libya

An Amsterdam newspaper cited by AFP asserted that Libya is studying the feasibility of a terrorist attack on the Kourou space rocket base in French Guiana. *Algemeen Dagblad* said that British intelligence has warned France to guard against such an attack, noting that Libya wants to "hit France wherever possible" because of French policy in Chad.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio stated that Iraqi naval and land units sank nine Iranian gunboats and one large command and support vessel in the northern Gulf 23 April. The Iranian boats were reportedly attempting to attack Iraq's Al-'Amiq port. Iraqi aircraft raided a large maritime target in the Gulf the following day, according to a statement carried by the radio.

Pakistan

A Foreign Office spokesman denied the DRA's claim that Pakistan is involved in a plot to assassinate PDPA Secretary General Najibullah, terming such reports "totally fabricated, baseless, and incorrect," Karachi radio reported.

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Keshtmand Addresses Private Investors' Conference

LD232049 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Speech by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, at a national conference of private investors; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] Esteemed representatives to the nationwide conference of the private investors, esteemed comrades, friends: All of us listened to the speech by Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, with profound interest. During discussion, the present [words indistinct] of the growth of the revolutionary process in our country was comprehensively assessed and specific tasks concerning the realization of the national reconciliation policy and the aims of the DRA's social and economic development were outlined before the party and economic organs, in particular regarding the private sector of the economy.

The year 1987-88 will be recorded in history as a year when the most important tasks in the political-social life of our society were solved and as the year of national reconciliation. The extraordinary January 1986 PDPA Central Committee plenum and the statement by Comrade Najib to the plenum, in which he declared the policy of national reconciliation, is an example of foresightedness and the closeness of our party to the people and the profound realization of their just demands.

We are in a very critical phase of our society's life. The policy of national reconciliation put fresh thinking before everyone and all the people. Reconciliation is an important element in speeding up economic growth on which rests the interests of national investors in accordance with the spirit and principles of national reconciliation. I feel the popular words of national reconciliation and national investors — which have been in wide use recently — are not something incidental. The advancement of reconciliation depends to a certain extent on the active stand of the investors, thus all conference participants undoubtedly are involved, and I could say that the success of the reconciliation depends to a considerable extent on your and our joint and purposeful work.

Broad activity in the expansion and consolidation of the social bases of the people's power, cessation of bloodshed, establishment of peace and stability in Afghanistan, readiness to cooperate with all patriotic and democratic forces as well as those personalities who participate in maintaining national peace, and building an independent and nonaligned Afghanistan are the tasks for which the party and government have taken practical, specific measures.

The process of democratic elections to local organs of popular power in our country with the participation of the representatives of various strata, including the opposition and those who have laid down their arms, has gained new dynamism. Socially influential personalities, including former opponents, are included in the composition of the executive committees of the councils of people's representatives, as well as in heading these committees at various levels, from village to the province.

Our armed forces, capable of actively defending the gains of our national democratic revolution, are being strengthened. Social and economic development plans are being realized. Specific measures are being taken toward improving the living standards of the people and eliminating socioeconomic backwardness.

In the meantime, I would like to mention that specific goals have been achieved as a result of the planned approach in socioeconomic spheres after the revolution. The [words indistinct] of our social and economic situation, is counted as a good base for the realization of the national reconciliation policy. The basic guidelines for the socioeconomic growth of the DRA for 1986-89 have been drafted and are being practically implemented. This (?important) document reflects the first long-term social and economic plan after the revolution to serve the interests of the Afghan people, to maintain the growth of all areas of the national economy, including the private sector, and to enhance the cultural and material level of our society.

The important anticipated tasks in the basic guidelines stem from the decisions of the 16th PDPA Central Committee Plenum, the announcement of the DRA Revolutionary Council concerning the national democratic character of the April Revolution, and its pressing tasks under the present conditions. The specifications of the national reconciliation policy have been clearly reflected in the plan for the country's socio-economic development for 1987-88, which was drafted on the basis of the basic guidelines.

A considerable (?speeding) up of the tempo of the country's socioeconomic development has been considered in the basic guidelines over the next 5 years. It is of interest to you investors to know that the GNP during 1986-89 compared with 1981-86, will be increased from 14 percent to 25 percent. The volume of industrial production will increase by 38 percent and agricultural production by 14 to 15 percent. The tempo of national income growth during these 5 years will increase twofold over the past 5 years; this will increase from 11 to 36 percent. I would like to mention in this regard that 84 percent of the national revenue will be drawn from the private sector and utilized. However, its share in state revenue is only 9 percent.

At a meeting of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and at the recent DRA Council of Ministers session, we summed up the results of national economic progress during 1985-86 and approved the DRA's socioeconomic and state budget plan for 1987-88. At an 11 April meeting the DRA Revolutionary Council endorsed the plan and budget for the current year, making it legal.

The results of work in the national economy during 1986-87 is indicative of the fact that as a result of the party Central Committee's attention and specific measures toward the revitalization of the state [words indistinct], mixed and private national economic sectors, despite the resistance of the counterrevolution, strong steps have been taken. The GNP during 1986-87 compared with 1985-86 has grown 3.3 percent and the national revenue, 3.6 percent; that depends on the volume of industrial production of the state and private sectors of the economy. It should be stated that during 1986 [passage indistinct] constitute the country's GNP and the share of the private sector's factory

production exceeds 4.37 billion afghani over 1977-78 prices. Compared with 1985-86 it shows a 6 percent growth.

The [words indistinct] value of handicrafts during 1986 has been assessed about 15 billion afghani, which shows a growth of 1.3 percent compared with 1985-86. The establishment of some 115 small and medium projects in construction and industry in the private sector at a total investment of 1.6 billion afghani were approved in 1986-87, and will provide work for 3,000 people. Simultaneously, some five inactive establishments were revived and have resumed their production activity. Plans for the transportation of goods have exceeded their norms, and the private sector of transportation has taken an active part. It shows an increase of 20 percent compared with 1985-86. The volume of foreign trade circulation in 1986-87 reached $1,352,300,000, in which the private sector's share is more than 40 percent.

Certain successes were achieved in 1986 in the social sphere. Education and training, public health, and culture were developed. A number of tasks of the socioeconomic development plans for 1986-87, however, have not been fully completed due to various reasons stemming from the weakness of organization in the work of some of the ministries and departments and the relevant regional organs, as well as the obstacles created by the counterrevolution. We have considered these factors in drafting the country's socioeconomic development plan for 1986-87 in which the solution of the fundamental tasks concerning the broadening and consolidation of the gains and social bases of the April Revolution, the maintenance of the positive results of the country's socioeconomic development, the future enhancement of the moral and material standard of living of the people of Afghanistan, and the maintenance of necessary social and economic conditions for the realization of the national reconciliation policy have been envisaged.

According to the plan, the continuation of the policy of the growth of state, mixed, and cooperative economic sectors as well as the private sector in increasing industrial production and the expansion of trade activities and services for the purpose of maintaining the speedy tempo of the country's national economic development will be assisted on a broader scale and in an active manner.

The Council of Ministers has envisaged specific measures for maximally utilizing existing reserves; further enhancing the quality and effectiveness of social production; improving production quality and decreasing prices; increasing incomes; and taking steps to repair, revive, and technically equip projects and establishments in all national economic sectors, including the private sector. To these measures I draw the attention of you national investors.

The growth of agricultural products and livestock for the purpose of creating a reliable supply of raw material for light industries and foodstuffs; the increase of the country's exporting capabilities; the expansion of the state retail and wholesale, as well as mixed, cooperative, and private sectors; the effective utilization of transport vehicles; and the further attraction of private transportation in goods transportation are among the major goals during 1987-88. Your cooperation in this area is invited.

The realizaton of growth in all production spheres in the private sector and the attraction of the potential of private investers to the national economic development process have been specifically reflected in the our state policy and in our measures.

In consideration of the fundamental tasks mentioned and the special conditions, all scales, tempos, and proportions of the DRA's social and economic development for 1987-88 have been adopted. Measures toward the future realization of democratic changes in the villages, the strengthening and expansion of the private and cooperative sectors, and the increase of state assistance to peasants and cooperatives have been envisaged. Irrigation and agricultural organs have been commissioned to organize specific measures for developing infertile lands and creating gardens and vineyards and for growing vegetables in city suburbs, in particular Kabul, by attracting private investment.

The volume of work for the Ministries of Agriculture and Water Resources in the repair of irrigation networks and projects will be increased to a considerable level and the state expenditure for realizing irrigation measures during 1987-88 will reach 1 billion afghanis.

The major task of the industrial sectors in the state, mixed, and private sectors consists in carrying out measures to revive and newly equip existing establishments, increasingly utilize production capacity, utilize carefully reserves of (?raw) material, decrease the waste in fuel and energy, and satisfy the important needs of the citizens for industrial material and foodstuffs.

The total volume of industrial output in 1978-79 prices will reach 40 billions afghanis, which will be a 7 percent increase over the 1986-87 assessment.

In the private sector's manufacturing industry, industrial production output is envisaged to be 5.1 billion afghanis or a 17 percent growth; in the handicraft industry, the volume of output will reach 15 billion afghanis, which indicates a growth of 3 percent.

Great duties face the government motor vehicle transportation and private sector transportation. Transportation will in practice be doubled compared with 1986. It is an enormous and complicated duty. Presently, the ministries and relevant departments are engaged in designing and taking measures for maintaining goods transportation. These measures will be assessed by the Council of Ministers. In order to meet the transportation duties, a large responsibility rests on private sector transportation.

In order to improve the supply of basic materials to the inhabitants, raising the balance of the inhabitants' income with the supply of goods [as heard], regulating money circulation, fixing retail prices during 1987 and subsequently increasing the circulation of retail commodities of government, mixed, cooperative, and private sectors has been envisaged. The circulation of retail commodities in 1987 is envisaged to reach 24.6 billion afghanis, which compared with the 1986 assessment will indicate a growth of 9 percent.

The realization of practical measures in public health, education and training; construction of residential houses; and other social

services in order to raise the living and cultural standard of the Afghan people have been envisaged.

In accordance with the basic guidelines, measures will be taken in stages to increase the salaries of various categories of workers and employees of the government. The distribution of basic materials in the coupon system will be expanded. Measures have been taken to improve the situation of luncheon (?supply) to the workers, employees of the ministries, and government enterprises. Noticeable changes have been brought about in the salary system of armed forces personnel in the interest of improving their living conditions. In any event, any increase in salaries will be remedied by the expansion of the system of supplying the necessary materials to prevent price increases.

I want to point out that the party and government are constantly interested and will pay serious attention to the activities of private investors, in the industrial, construction, transportation and services sectors; of traders, employees of the handicraft industries, guilds, peasants, gardeners, and of other private sector representatives.

Our government's policy regarding the private sector has been clearly announced in the basic documents of the party and government's leadership authorities. It is stated in the Revolutionary Council proclamation dated 9 November 1986 and in the resolutions of the 16th PDPA Central Committee Plenum that the policy of encouraging and supporting the initiatives of the private sector pertaining the increase of production of agricultural and commodity output, and legally allowing the creation of farms and large mechanized agricultural complexes on unused land is a principled policy under the circumstances of the national and democratic revolution.

Our national and democratic government's policy has never been to harm the interests of the nation's private sector, which plays an important role in the country's economic life. On the contrary, the objective of the government is to maintain confident and honest cooperation with the nation's private investors.

As it was stated in the PDPA's program of action, the state has expanded the necessary legal economic bases toward long-term and effective cooperation and the organization of mutually beneficial relations with the private sector and national investors within the framework of the mixed sector, as well as in the (?sphere) of private individual cooperation. It has helped investors in the mixed and private sectors in making them secure against competition with foreign capital. Practical opportunities have been made available for the national investors to defend themselves and their interests to the state authorities in the Economic Consultative Council. The role of the Economic Consultative Council and of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been practically broadened and raised.

In connection with the formation of light industries and foodstuff establishments, necessary facilities and opportunities have been provided for private national investors to establish small- and medium-size establishments, individually or on a mixed basis, which can compensate for the expenditures involved in setting them up in a short period to make a profit.

As a result of the joint work of the Economic Consultative Council, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and a large number of private investors, the formation of more than 170 projects in industries, construction, and other economic areas was recently approved by the DRA Council of Ministers. It should be stated with profound gratitude that, by providing a considerable amount in loans on easy terms, the Soviet Union is extending selfless technical and financial assistance to the DRA in the creation of these projects. We signed an agreement on this yesterday with esteemed Comrade [name indistinct]. Under the agreement, in the first phase, the establishment of 38 medium-sized mixed projects with industrial importance will be undertaken with the Soviet Union's credit. Five of these projects will be set up in the very near future.

Esteemed friends, as you know, of all agricultural products, about 98 percent are produced on land which is the personal property of the peasants and farmers. Agriculture is our principal economic base. Private sector industries including handicrafts play a considerable role in the DRA's economic growth. The part of private industries within the total volume of industrial production is considerable -- 50 percent. Traditional industrial output such as carpet weaving, curriery, sheepskin coat-making, goldsmithing, and other private handicrafts occupies a major place in production and is an important source of the country's currency income.

Presently, more than 190 active industrial establishments -- such as the chemical industry, the construction material industry, the medical industry, paper manufacturing and other light industries, and the foodstuffs industry -- exist in the private sector.

The growth of the national economy, including that of the private sector, in comprehensively utilizing the country's raw material reserves. The further attraction of citizens capable of work, including the returnee compatriots, to beneficial social work, an increase in the production of export goods and foodstuffs, and the maintenance of citizens from the aspect of consumer goods will help toward realizing national reconciliation.

Esteemed friends and guests, the maintenance, consolidation, and expansion of relations and mutual trust between state organs and representatives of the private sector and national investors, is an important and inseparable part of national reconciliation.

The Council of Ministers recently approved a number of legislative documents and important government documents concerning reciprocal relations between government organs and national investors that form solid, long-term economic and legal foundations for reciprocal, advantageous cooperation between the government and private sector.

As you know, for the first time in the country the special position [bast] of vice-chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers has been created for the purpose of organizing reciprocal cooperation between the government and the private sector. Esteemed Seyyed Amanuddin Amin who has had a long career and much experience in the private sector, fills this position and at the same time is chairman of the Economic Consultative Council. The Economic Consultative Council, with its structure and new democratic charter, functions within the framework the DRA

Government and enjoys special authority among the private sector and government organs. This council organizes the activities of the national investors in various fields and presents advantageous proposals on their behalf to the Council of Ministers.

On the recent proposal of the Economic Consultative Council, a central department with broad authority for encouraging and expanding private investment within the framework of the Council of Ministers has been created. This department is commissioned to provide the necessary facilities and government assistance for the investors and for the private economic sector in general, and to supervise the work of the private production enterprises.

In accordance with the recent decision, the government organs will be commissioned by the government to assess and solve the issues relevant to private sector in relation to their tasks. For this purpose, special departments with regard to work with the private sector under the leadership of one of the deputy ministers, deputy heads of state committees, and vice chairmen of the executive committee of the people's representatives councils, will be created. These departments will establish their ties with the Economic Consultative Council.

I want to tell you that in the DRA's yearly socioeconomic development plans, the indices for granting aid to the private sector with regard to distribution of electrical energy, raw materials, fuel, and other materials and reserves, will be envisaged. For example, such forecasts exist in the current year's plan, and in such cases consultations on behalf of the private sector will be sought with the Economic Consultative Council.

Moreover, the participants in this conference are being informed that recently a new law on private investment was approved which provides the possibility for attracting broader national and foreign capital for the growth of production and other national economic sectors.

This law will provide further possibilities and facilities for expanding the activitites of private, individual, mixed, and cooperative sectors in production and services. On the basis of this law, productive economic and service enterprises can be created in accordance with the following norms:

The enterprises are formed with 100 percent domestic private capital.

The enterprises are formed with mixed capital; the share of government and private capital in them can be more or less than 50 percent. In enterprises created with private domestic and foreign capital as well as with government investment, however, the share of the foreign capital cannot be more than 49 percent. Of course, in exceptional cases on the basis of joint proposals by domestic and foreign private investors and with the approval of the commission of the Council of Ministers executive committee on the affairs of private investments, and the approval of the DRA Council of Ministers, the percentage of the share of foreign government investment can be increased in the mixed enterprises.

The following facilities have been envisaged in the law on domestic and foreign private investments for private sector industrial enterprises: nonpayment of income tax and tax on transactions in the capital not less than 2 years and in the provinces not less then 3 years in consideration of the success of the project, and in both cases not more than 6 years [as heard]; facilities regarding the payment of custom duty on import of machinery, spare parts, equipment and raw materials needed by private productive enterprises; nonpayment of custom duties on exports of production from the private production enterprises. Moreover, the government will assist the private sector enterprises in the task of training expert cadres.

In accordance with the new law, any discovery by private investors will be registered in their names and the inventors — with the agreement of the central department for encouraging and expanding private investment — can sell their discoveries inside or outside the country.

In order to organize better reciprocal legal relations on the basis of private domestic and foreign investment law, a symbolic (?provisional) charter on private and mixed share-holding companies was approved and enforced by the Council of Ministers.

The joint initiative by the executive committee of the representatives' council of Kabul city's people and private investors to establish commercial and social services enterprises in the city and the readiness for the construction of residential commercial buildings, civic markets, and shops, deserves commendation. The provincial executive committees must also follow this example of the Kabul city executive committee and the experience of the Ministry of Light Industries and Foodstuffs for creating industrial parks.

Presently, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform is designing and presenting their proposals on a system to completely supply peasants and landowners with chemical fertilizer, sowing seeds, insecticides, and other services in return for the purchase of their grain and other agricultural products. Similarly, the Ministry of Commerce will also present attractive proposals on perfecting an organizational system to supply basic commodities to the villages, capitals of subdistricts, and districts, with the participation of the local traders. It is required that the Economic Consultative Council take an active part in such important instances.

At this very moment, under the leadership of the Economic Consultative Council, the regulations on the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the union of industry owners, and other unions of national investors are under review. Your present conference and your discussions will aid in drafting new documents.

During the talks with the Soviet leadership, the issue of forming mixed Afghan-Soviet enterprises with the participation of the private sector was also confirmed. In this respect, too, we are awaiting for the patriotic initiatives of the private sector.

Esteemed elected representatives in the conference, friends, under the present circumstances the unity, revolutionary solidar-

ity, and active cooperation of all national and patriotic forces are essentially required. Private investors too must do their share in normalizing the situation in the country and in the growth of the national economy.

I am confident that you will properly understand your national duty and forge ahead under the banner of national reconciliation. This high duty lies before this present conference. I sincerely hope for the success of this conference.

Thank you for your attention. [applause]

Security Forces Confiscate Rebel Explosives in Kabul

LD240649 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Kabul, April, 23 *Bakhtar* — A large quantity of arms and ammunition which were being transfered in a lorry [words indistinct] was confiscated by the Security Forces of DRA with the cooperation of the local people in the southern part of Kabul City.

These arms and ammunition consisted of 26, Chinese machine guns, five rocket launchers, two Egyptian guns, ten kilogrammes of explosives. They were skillfully placed on the upper part of the body of the vehicle and were to be placed at disposal of the elements attached to the opposition extremist groups for disrupting peace and order in the country. The confiscated explosive materials were neutralised in a remote area outside the Kabul City.

Defense Minister Pant Makes Stopover in Beijing

For PRC media coverage of the visit of Defense Minister Krishna Chandra Pant to the People's Republic of China, see the South Asia section of the 22 April China *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Tiwari Discusses PRC Border Issue, Pant Visit

BK231256 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Teqt] India has called upon China to exercise restraint for maintaining peace on the border. The external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, said in the Lok Sabha today that New Delhi is prepared for the eighth round of talks with China to resolve the border issue. Mr Tiwari was replying to discussion on the demands for grants of his ministry.

The minister categorically denied the Chinese allegation that India has massed troops on the border and is nibbling at its territory. He said we have no interest in having any border skirmishes with China. Mr Tiwari also denied reports of Indian troops crossing over the Chinese border and India violating Chinese airspace. He said New Delhi is not engaged in any military activity on the Chinese border and strict instructions have been given to the troops not to cross the border. We are committed to resolving the border dispute with China through peaceful negotiations, he said.

Referring to the reported visit of the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, to China, Mr Tiwari said there is nothing secret about it. The Indian delegation led by Mr Pant made a transit halt in China on his way back from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Chinese geology and minerals minister hosted a dinner in honor of Mr Pant, but no secret negotiations were held on the border issue.

Mr Tiwari said the situation in Sri Lanka had taken a tragic turn in the last few days and he appealed to both sides to eschew violence and resume negotiations to resolve the issue. The house later passed the demands.

More on Tiwari Statement

BK231617 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Excerpts] India has called upon China to exercise patience and restraint for maintaining peace on the border. The external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, said in the Lok Sabha today that New Delhi is prepared for the eighth round of talks to resolve the border issue and let Beijing reciprocate it. [passage omitted]

The minister referred to the Chinese activities in the Sumdorong Chu Valley and said they are not at all helpful in solving the border issue. China's objection to the grant of statehood to Arunachal Pradesh is also unacceptable to New Delhi. [passage omitted]

About the statement of the Chinese Communist Party leader in Beijing during the visit of the CPI-M general secretary, Mr Namboodiripad, the minister said we are also for negotiations with China on the border issue.

Mr Tiwari expressed India's concern over the situation in Sri Lanka and regretted that it has taken a tragic turn in the last few days. He said any victory achieved through violence would be short-lived and illusory. He appealed to both the sides to eschew violence and resume negotiations to find a peaceful solution to the ethnic issue. Describing last week's violence as senseless, the minister said whoever indulges in such acts must stand condemned. [passage omitted]

Mr Tiwari reiterated India's resolve to usher in an era of peace and security in the region. In this context, he referred to India's contribution to SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]. The minister also disclosed in the house that about 50,000 Chakma refugees have crossed over to Tripura from Bangladesh. This problem and other outstanding issues with Bangladesh will be taken up next week when the foreign secretary visits Dhaka. Mr Tiwari also reiterated India's continued moral and material support to the African National Congress in its fight against apartheid in South Africa.

Describing India's ties with the Soviet Union as a model, Mr Tiwari said these have been raised to a higher level following the visit of the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, to India last year.

Replying to a question, the minister said there is absolutely no supply of arms from Nepal to the Gurkha National Liberation Front.

Assails Pakistan's Nuclear Program

BK231433 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, said in Parliament today that the nuclear weapons program of Pakistan is of paramount concern to India.

He told the members that India has initiated a dialogue with the U.S. Government leaders and also members of the Congress to impress upon them that arming of Pakistan would endanger the security environment in the subcontinent.

He said the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, is currently engaged in this dialogue which is essentially a part of India's diplomatic efforts (?for) maintaining friendly relations with all countries. Mr Tiwari said that the Pakistani Government instead of trying to get more armaments should discuss various proposals for mutual friendship and goodwill put across by India.

Junejo Addresses Joint Session on Foreign Policy
BK231353 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has reiterated his government's determination to continue to work with full dedication to solve problems facing the country.

Winding up a debate on foreign policy, he expressed confidence that the present elected government will succeed in making Pakistan an Islamic welfare state as envisioned by the founder of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Referring to the main aspects of foreign policy, the prime minister spoke of the Afghanistan problem and described how Pakistan became involved in this problem with the influx of Afghan refugees following the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan 7 years ago. He said the prospects for a settlement of this problem have brightened with a change in the Soviet attitude on this problem and the progress thus far made at the Geneva indirect talks. Three of the four instruments for a proposed political settlement of the Afghanistan problem have already been agreed upon, and he is confident that the remaining instrument, which relates to the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, will be finalized in the next round of Geneva negotiations.

As for a future government in Afghanistan, he said it is for the Afghan people to decide. Pakistan wants an early solution to the Afghanistan problem so the 3 million Afghan refugees may be able to return to their homeland with honor and dignity.

The prime minister also referred to Pakistan's relations with fraternal Islamic countries, especially with Iran and Turkey. He expressed deep regret over the continued fighting between two fraternal countries — Iran and Iraq — and said the sooner the war ends the better.

About Pakistan's relations with China, Mohammad Khan Junejo said China has always sided with Pakistan in time of trial, and that is why his first visit abroad was to China after his coming to power. He said the Chinese premier will pay a return visit to Pakistan within next 2 months.

Speaking of his visits to Turkey, West Germany, the United States, Britain, and Belgium, the prime minister said he found feelings of friendship for Pakistan in those countries. His visit has helped promote and strengthen Pakistan's cooperation with these countries in several fields.

Referring to the U.S. aid package for Pakistan, which is now under consideration in the U.S. Congress, the prime minister said his government will accept that aid with honor and dignity and will not compromise on principles for any assistance.

On Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program, Mohammad Khan Junejo reiterated that the sole purpose of this program is to meet the energy requirements of the country. Pakistan does not intend to manufacture an atomic weapon nor does it have the required resources to do so. It is only nuclear energy which can fill the gap of 4,000 megawatts of electricity required by the country, and we cannot abandon this source of energy solely because of the criticism of others. As for the unilateral signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty by Pakistan, the prime minister said we must not be made the target of discrimination in this regard, as we cannot be discriminated against.

Referring to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC], the prime minister described it as a basis for mutual cooperation among countries of the region.

About his talks with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during the SAARC summit conference in Bangalore, he said their talks have helped in easing tension between two countries.

He expressed confidence that the outstanding issues of Kashmir and the Siachen Glacier will also be resolved with India.

Radio Pakistan's parliamentary correspondent says the members applauded the prime minister's speech by thumping their desks.

Spokesman Comments on Afghanistan, U.S. Aid Program
BK231605 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Pakistan attaches cardinal importance to the Geneva negotiations for a settlement of the Afghanistan problem. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that any impression to the effect that the process of the Geneva negotiations is being ignored is not correct.

The spokesman reiterated Pakistan's confidence that a solution to the Afghanistan problem will be reached only under the auspicies of the United Nations. He said the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, is closely watching the situation and is in touch with two sides on the next round of Geneva negotiations.

The Foreign Office spokesman emphatically rejected the Kabul regime's official news agency *Bakhtar's* report that Pakistan is involved in the so-called plot to assassinate Dr Najibullah. The spokesman described this alleged report as totally fabricated, baseless, and incorrect.

The spokesman said Pakistan hopes the United States Administration will secure congressional approval for continuing the 6-year agreement for economic aid and sale of military equipment as has been finalized between Pakistan and the United States.

He stated this while commenting on reports that both houses of the U.S. Congress are considering a 2-year waiver in the implementation of the Symington amendment. If the Congress disapproves a waiver for 6 years, Pakistan will reconsider this issue. There can be no unilateral agreement in this regard, the spokesman added.

Referring to the construction of Wular barrage by India, the spokesman said that Pakistan has proposed to India to enter into discussion on an official level on this question provided further work on the construction of the barrage is suspended.

Afghan KHAD Agents Arrested With Cluster Bomb
BK231629 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The police seized a toy-shaped cluster bomb at (Haryanawale) village near Peshawar last night [22 April], thereby foiling a most dangerous subversive plot to kill hundreds of people. A police spokesman told newsmen in Peshawar today that it was a very powerful bomb which was to be placed at any crowded place.

Three KHAD [Afghan Secret Intelligence Agency] agents were arrested on the spot and five other persons were also taken into custody for investigation. The bomb was brought from Afghanistan, the spokesman added. The arrested persons have admitted that they were promised substantial reward for each person killed in the explosion. Investigations into this incident is in progress.

SRI LANKA

Further Reportage on Violence in Colombo, North

10 'Terrorists' Camps Destroyed

BK240148 Colombo International Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] The Sri Lankan security forces destroyed more than 10 terrorists camps in Jaffna peninsula yesterday. National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Cooperation] this morning that (?a large number of) terrorists were killed (?in these attacks).

Continued Military Offensive Urged

BK231648 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1515 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The government's parliamentary group at its meeting today presided over by President J.R. Jayewardene unanimously decided to request the president to order the Security Forces to continue with the military offensive with a view to eliminating terrorism and (?all dangers) from terrorist activities. The group also decided to request the prime minister of India to arrest the murderous terrorists based in India [words indistinct] Sri Lanka.

The resolution was moved by Mr R.M. Karunaratna, MP from Uva-Paranagama; and seconded by Mr A.R.M. Attanayake, deputy minister of higher education.

The resolution, adopted unanimously, urged the president to order the Security Forces to continue without interruption traditional security duty to (?eliminate) terrorism and terrorists from Sri Lanka to create a suitable peaceful environment necessary for consideration of the political solution.

It is now clear to the entire world that what prevails in Sri Lanka today is not an issue of a human rights crisis but a deplorable attempt to set up a fascist, terrorist regime by destroying the democratic system so (?dearly) preserved by the people of Sri Lanka up till now based within the (principle) of unitary structure of Sri Lanka.

The group would request the prime minister of India to arrest the murderous Sri Lanka terrorists living on Indian soil [words indistinct] Sri Lanka which India herself now believes [words indistinct] killers.

President, Prime Minister on Tamils

BK241130 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] President Jayewardene, addressing the parliamentary group meeting yesterday, said that the world has now realized the motives of the so-called Eelam fighters. The false image created about Sri Lanka has now been reversed. Many nations now know that the groups of people, which (?are) said to be campaigning for certain rights for the Tamils, are not liberators but outright murderers. The president expressed his profound sorrow at the loss of innocent lives in the recent incidents. He assured the members of parliament that they would achieve victory. He said the terrorist groups, who are smarting under the reversals they have suffered, are now taking innocent lives in revenge.

Mr Jayewardene said that the government had tried to find a peaceful solution to the ethnic problem, but the Eelamist groups had always fouled the atmosphere by dastardly acts when peace negotiations were on. He said that despite the attempts made by the terrorists groups to create chaos, development work to give relief to the people will go on.

The president noted that the threat of terrorism would be eliminated, except for the Jaffna peninsula where the terrorists seem to be more active, and the other parts of north and the east are under government control. Mr Jayewardene added that while fighting against terrorism, we should not lose sight of the fact that we should strive for a united Sri Lanka.

Prime Minister R. Premadasa said that the present situation in the country was much more than a war. We should give our fullest support to the president, who is commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, to tackle the problems in the light of the new developments. The time has now come to ask India to order the arrest of Sri Lankan terrorists based there.

The minister of land, land development, and Mahaweli development, Gamini Dissanayake, referred to an article in an Indian newspaper which said that the Sri Lankan Government had shown enough patience in the recent context.

Security Minister's Announcement

BK241146 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, announced in parliament today that certain actions of a military nature have been taken against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and the EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] terrorist groups as they are not prepared for peace and negotiations.

Participating in the debate on a motion to extend the state of emergency, Mr Athulathmudali said that the government is still prepared to find a solution to the current problem through discussions, but the Tiger movement and the EROS are bent on efforts to nullify the peace efforts. These organizations have shown an unwillingness to peace and they have not made any proposals to achieve peace.

The minister told the house that the Tiger movement has rejected outright the 19 December proposals put forward by the government. Describing the terrorists as fascists opposed to nonviolence, Mr Athulathmudali said that to label them as Marxists by some was an insult to Karl Marx.

The terrorists have launched a propaganda to disassociate themselves from the massacre of innocent people in Sri Lanka a few

days ago. However, there is evidence to link the terrorists with this heinous crime.

The minister observes that in times of such tragedy our shock and sorrow which overcome us is a problem. He said that it should not be an obstacle to our firm resolve in the battle against terrorism.

He said that it did not make sense to call for the resignation of the government in this situation.

Tamils Claim Air Force Using Napalm

BK240638 Hong Kong AFP in English 0614 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] New Delhi, April 24 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan Air Force is using napalm on rebel areas in the island's northern Jaffna peninsula, the dominant Tamil separatist group alleged Friday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said eight napalm bombs were dropped early Friday on Nallur, some three kilometres (1.8 miles) from Jaffna, setting several houses on fire.

"The attacks are continuing, and though no LTTE base has been attacked, we lost a fighter in Jaffna town," spokesman Thilagar told *Agence France-Presse* by telephone from Madras, capital of Tamil Nadu State. The guerrilla was killed Thursday by helicopter gunships, he said.

Colombo has blamed the powerful LTTE and the smaller Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) for the massacre of some 300 people over the past week. A major offensive by security forces is underway in the Jaffna peninsula.

Mr. Thilagar said the Army had fired more than 70 artillery shells from Jaffna fort, causing widespread damage in Passaiyoor, Nallur, Kuttadi, Ariyali and Navalkuli. Guerrillas also confronted government troops at Palaly, about 18 kilometers (11 miles) from Jaffna, he added.

The LTTE Thursday said it had killed 46 soldiers in land mine explosions and gunbattles and lost six of their combatants in the north and east.

The EROS has also said security forces had not attacked its bases, but its leader V. Balakumar said Friday his group had no communication from Jaffna since the previous night. "We are not sure what happened, and we don't have the latest information about the situation in the north," he said.

All five major Sri Lankan Tamil militant groups have offices in Madras.

Voice of Tamil Eelam on Attacks

BK230458 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 0130 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Here is a flash. Reports from there [Sri Lanka] say 14 Sri Lankan soldiers and 5 policemen were killed in the major attack of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] on the military camp in Kankesanthurai. Reports say that the LTTE made a major attack with the help of [words indistinct].

A spokesman of the LTTE said this attack was undertaken at a time when the attention of the Sri Lankan forces was diverted following the incidents in the Sri Lankan capital and that 14 fighters from its side were martyred. The spokesman of the LTTE said one civilian was killed in this incident and many arms of the Sri Lankan forces were seized.

In the meantime, reliable reports say 15 Sri Lankan soldiers were killed and many seriously injured in the attack of the Tamil Eelam freedom fighters in (Pulimoottai). No details are available about the aftermath.

At the same time, the Sri Lankan Air Force undertook major attacks in Chavakachchery and (Palai) this morning. We will give details about the damages there in our next news bulletin. Reliable reports say four freedom fighters were killed in the Sri Lankan Air Force raids on EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] and LTTE camps Velvettiturai and Point Pedro.

The Media Center under the control of the Sri Lankan Government said about 80 persons were killed in the Sri Lankan Armed Forces attack in Jaffna peninsula in the past several hours. Simultaneously, [words indistinct] and BBC citing reports of (?correspondents) from Jaffna said up to 250 (?guerrillas) were killed.

At the same time, the reports reaching our station from the South Indian Tamil Nadu State say the casualties of freedom fighters and civilians is about 50. Those reports also report that about 100 people may have been injured.

Reports say that following the air raids on LTTE and EROS camps in Velvettiturai, Point Pedro, and (Palai) and on the main camp of Commander Mathiah and after the artiliary attacks from the army camps from Jaffna Fort, Kankesanthurai, and Navatkuli, a large number of people have migrated from those places and many are still leaving. According to the reports of citizens of Jaffna city, most of the people from the city left following the artillery fire of the Sri Lankan Army to clear the area of 1000 meters around the Fort.

Voice of Tamil Eelam appeals to its beloved people from Jaffna peninsula, the main center of our country, to move to safer places immediately and to take all necessary steps to escape the brutal attack of the racist government. We request them to seek places of safety before 0430 [2300] tomorrow. Voice of Tamil Eelam urges the people to go to places of safety, schools, temples, and not to leave those places.

We announce that, if needed, our people can seek the necessary protection from TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization], PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam] and EPRLF [Eelam People Revolutionary Liberation Front]. The [words indistinct] Democratic Front says that members of TELO, PLOTE, and EPRLF are prepared to do anything for the sake of the people of Tamil Eelam. We urge our people to seek their

own protection and escape from the major attack of the Sri Lankan Government forces and to remain calm.

Voice of Tamil Eelam Notes Casualties

BK231652 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in English 1632 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] This is the Voice of Tamil Eelam. Here is a special news bulletin. The racist Sri Lankan Air Force carried out bombing raids in the Jaffna peninsula until 1330 [0800 GMT]. Reports from Jaffna say four buildings were destroyed in the air raids on the LTTE in (Wymen) Road. Two of them were civilian houses. It is also reported that a freedom fighter by the name of (Dalton) was killed in this attack.

In another air raid on Velvettiturai, one civilian was killed while seven were injured. Casualties from other areas are still unknown. Unconfirmed reports from the peninsula say that a number of freedom fighters could have been killed by the bombs and subsequent helicopter gunfire. The number of casualties could be especially high in the LTTE base at VVT [presumably Velvettiturai].

The Voice of Tamil Eelam warns the people of Jaffna that this indiscriminate bombing raid could go on at least over the next few days. We advise the people to leave dangerous areas, especially areas around the army camp and to find temporary shelter in schools, temples, and homes of relatives and friends well away from the operational zone.

Voice of Tamil Eelam Details Raids

BK240538 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in English 1430 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] This is the Voice of Tamil Eelam. Here is the special news bulletin. The air raids by the Sri Lanka Air Force on targets in the Jaffna peninsula continued today. The air raids started over (Wymen) Road in Jaffna; a second location in Swarnapattu, where the Air Force destroyed an LTTE base yesterday; the main base of the LTTE in Velvettiturai; and another in Kankesanthurai. There is no accurate information about casualties among the soldiers or freedom fighters in these raids.

The number of confirmed civilian casualties in yesterday's air attacks lies at 16.

At (Vanpettai), 12 people died when the racist Sinhala Air Force raided its targets near Point Pedro. Two more were killed at (Unnawai) but we have no accurate information yet as to where exactly the other deaths took place.

Today people continued to leave the areas around the Jaffna fort after yesterday's shelling.

Unconfirmed reports from Colombo spoke of the Sri Lanka Army advancing from Navatkuli to Jaffna fort. However, there has been confirmation of this story from our sources in the peninsula.

Indepedent sources in Colombo have confirmed that four Tamil prisoners died in the attacks by Sinhala prisoners on their cells. *Reuters* news agency reports that all the Tamil prisoners are now being moved to one of Colombo's schools. Earlier, All India Radio reported that three prisoners died.

Other reports from Sri Lanka say the cabinet of President Jayewardene unanimously agreed to support the bombing raids on Jaffna.

Sources in Colombo today said they had no information about air raids in the Trincomalee district, however, pointing out that the forces are concentrating their efforts on the peninsula in an attempt to crush the LTTE.

Khamene'i Addresses Kuwait, USSR on Gulf Security

LD241320 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] The Friday prayers' politico-religious rites were held throughout the Islamic homeland today. The Hezbollahi Islamic nation, gathering at Tehran University and the surrounding thoroughfares, observed this Muhammadan rite under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

In his second sermon, referring to the furor concocted in the Persian Gulf by certain regional countries and superpowers, Tehran's Friday imam said: The step taken by Kuwait in inviting the USSR and the United States into the Persian Gulf constitutes an extremely ugly and dangerous move which is tantamount to a stain of dishonor, not only for the future of the Persian Gulf and its littoral states, but also for the history of the region. This stain of dishonor will undoubtedly be aimed at those who have orchestrated such a move.

Recalling the Islamic Republic of Iran's responsible leaders' counsels to the leaders of certain countries in the Persian Gulf basin, particularly Kuwait, aimed at restraining Iraq's Zionist regime from striking at Iran's commercial shipping, the president of the Republic said: We have repeatedly advised Kuwait and certain Persian Gulf countries not to support the aggressor Iraqi regime, and not to allow, by their own hands, the Persian Gulf to be rendered insecure and fraught with anarchy and tumult, as by this insecurity and anarchy it will be they who will be trampled underfoot. Unfortunately, the Kuwaiti Government, instead of heeding our advice and counsel, behaved in such a manner that were it any other country than the Islamic Republic of Iran, it would have reacted violently.

Pointing out that Kuwait's facilities, the city of Kuwait, and Kuwait's shipping are within range of Iranian forces' fire, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i said: We have not yet made use of our capacity to bring pressure to bear on Kuwait. The Kuwaiti Government should know that the Islamic Republic of Iran is capable of reacting more seriously against it. It is a cause of regret that our neighbor, after the passage of so many years, still does not properly understand the Islamic Republic of Iran, the responsible leaders of our system, or the Iranian nation. It imagines that by raising aloft the Soviet flag in the Persian Gulf it can establish security!

Tehran's Friday imam added: Persian Gulf security is indivisible; this security should either be for all or for none. The security of commercial shipping and oil tankers in the Persian Gulf should be safeguarded by the Persian Gulf countries themselves, and not by the presence of the United States, the USSR, or other powers. Therefore, from this very Friday prayers' rostrum, I issue a warning to the Kuwaiti Government: The Kuwaiti Government is responsible for the outcome of its moves in the Persian Gulf.

Continuing his speech, the president of the Republic addressed the Soviet leaders as follows: It is a cause for surprise to us that the Soviet Government wishes to fall into this dangerous abyss, since coming into the Persian Gulf will not be to the advantage of the USSR. If these people imagine that by such a move they will be able to bring pressure to bear on the Islamic Republic of Iran in its war against the Iraqi regime, or in the Persian Gulf they are making a grave error. As we have often said, we proclaim once again we will not take a single step backward in our policy vis-a-vis the war against the war-mongering Iraqi regime, or in the Persian Gulf. If the Soviet Government imagines that by its presence in the Persian Gulf it can gain a foothold, it is making a mistake, as world public opinion, particularly that of the fighting Iranian nation, opposes a Soviet presence in the Persian Gulf.

Calling on the Persian Gulf countries to solve the problem of the Persian Gulf, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i said: Seeking refuge behind the skirts of the United States and USSR does not serve the interests of Kuwait or any other Persian Gulf country, as in this adventurism Kuwait, or the Persian Gulf countries, will be harmed more than anyone else.

In conclusion, referring to the presence of UN representatives to investigate the crimes perpetrated by the Iraqi Zionist regime in using chemical weapons, the president of the Republic emphasized: UN officials should act vigilantly in order to reveal the truth to world public opinion.

Prime Minister Addresses Islamic Seminar

LD220536 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0930 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Speech by Prime Minister Mir Hosayn Musavi at the Seminar on Islam and the Oppressed in Tehran, date not specified — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. One of the greatest blessings of the system of the Islamic Republic is its concept of thinking about the notion of expectation [of the return of the hidden imam]. In our system, expectation has assumed an all-encompassing meaning and governs our private activities, our communal activities, our government's activities, our foreign policy, our domestic policies, and our economic affairs. [passage omitted]

I wish to take this opportunity to refer to a few points concerning the relationship between the executive — the government — and the beloved clergy and religious seminaries. In the framework of an Islamic belief, an Islamic government is an organ that serves as a part of the system of the Islamic Republic, regardless of those who constitute the members of the government. It is in this framework that the government regards itself. It is also in this framework that it organizes its activities and places its fundamental issues in connection with religious seminaries so that it can find the policies that have emanated from the Islamic system and use them as a means of solving the problems that the government faces. [passage omitted]

The first issue I wish to raise here, and this is an issue that I have raised in the past in my discussions with a number of our dear clerical brothers, is that the executive is an organ forced to face a large number of comprehensive issues each day in connection with solving the problems of the country and of the world. The duties that have been placed upon the shoulders of the executive

branch demand that each day it find answers to the problems that concern the fate of individuals, the fate of Islam, and the fate of the Islamic revolution in the world, as well as our relations with the outside world. In view of the nature of the works undertaken by the government and the duties entrusted to it in connection with economic, political, and domestic policies, and in view of its duties to engage in various activities, the scope of the questions that it is faced with is extremely wide.

Of course, in the system of the Islamic Republic, in order to find suitable answers to these questions which are also based on Islamic ideologies, certain frameworks have been created. The government acts within the framework of the Constitution. It has certain prerogatives in formulating regulations and in submitting bills to the Majlis. It has certain executive prerogatives. It possesses certain levers, such as banks, insurance, factories and many other facilities, as well as a vast bureaucracy at its service. The government performs its duties within this framework. Certain issues are also formulated in the form of bills which are sent to the Majlis. After discussion and amendment they go from the Majlis to the Council of Guardians, and eventually they come back to the government for implementation.

However, in practice and as a result of our past experiences we can say that this procedure, this legal procedure, this procedure thich has been formulated and put into practice can in no way answer all the questions with which the government is faced. In a system in which the government is Islamic, where the government is connected with the members of the clergy, where the government's legitimacy is based upon the rule of the supreme theologian, the person of the supreme theologian, in such a system there should be constant dialogue between the executive branch and the members of the clergy and our beloved theologians. [passage omitted]

It is also clear to us that raising these questions to the seminaries and the beloved members of the clergy and receiving their answers would also strengthen the seminaries and enable them to confront fundamental problems of the society and the world. We are a country which, as a blessing from the revolution, is engaged in a duel with the superpowers. Today the name of the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic is always placed opposite that of the U.S. Today the superpowers are afraid of us and we have been changed into a country that has a decisive role in the region. The problems in the country today are not regional, parochial, or limited issues. The decisions we make, even on issues that seem to be local and domestic and that concern only a village or a locality, have worldwide repercussions. The decision we make in solving the problems of even a village, the methods that we use in order to eliminate oppression in a village, and the policies that we adopt in this connection are not such that people would say that Iran, a country in the Middle East, has merely adopted certain policies. All our decisions would be placed on the account of Islam. They would be put on the account of an Islamic Republic. Their consequences would be international consequences.

Whether we like it or not, the Islamic revolution is closely observed by the enemies of Islam, by all the countries of the world, as well as by all the Muslims of the world. Certainly we have some responsibilities toward the Islamic movement in Tunisia. Whatever decision we make, even regarding our domestic issues, either strengthens or weakens that Islamic movement in Tunisia. The scope of the effects of our actions inside the country is so wide. This is why all the gazes have been fixed upon our system from all over the world, by big powers and by the mass media. Whatever policy we adopt will be evaluated, criticized, analyzed, discussed, and reported because those policies are not merely limited to a national or domestic arena. [passage omitted]

At the time the Constitution was being drafted there were a number of people — and we repeat this matter so that we do not forget it — there were certain individuals such as Nazih [director of the National Iranian Oil Company in 1979 and now living in exile in France], who said that it is neither possible nor useful to implement Islam. He used to say that in order to activate our factories and our country, we should reinstate the managers we expelled or imprisoned. [passage omitted]

However, our system has been able to cope with all these issues, the issues that are the most modern issues, issues that have both a national and international significance. It has provided an answer, and a very effective answer, to all these issues. The most powerful proof about the effectiveness of this response is that our system is continuing its battle against arrogant powers with strength and is steadfast upon its principles. Nevertheless, in my belief, this pattern of confronting the issues should be a continuous process. It is not right for us to say that we have drawn up the Constitution, that we have expressed our views about certain issues, and now everything is over. The issues faced by a government that claims to be in the forefront of international affairs, that does not accept that it is merely a regional power, and that constantly talks of a global ideology, this system will be constantly confronted with issues and problems created for it, and which emanate from within the society.

In the same way that at the time of the shah's downfall and the establishment of the Islamic government our jurisprudence, our theologians, our clergy, our seminaries provided such a crushing and powerful and effective response for the issues and solved them. I believe that this is not something that came to an end at the time of the drafting of the Constitution which was approved by the nation and confirmed by his holiness the imam. No, we say that this process is a continuous process and that each day we are faced with some new problems.

The issue I wish to raise here is that we should regard all the questions that arise following the drafting of the Constitution — whether within the executive or within the non-clerical forces [as heard] inside the universities, among our youths, among our Muslim intellectuals, among our experts — as something quite natural. This fact should be accepted as something natural that certain questions are constantly raised by the executive, by the Muslim intellectuals, and the intellectuals who have been indoctrinated by the East or the West, by the children of our nation, by those who have grown up in the mosques and who are now filling the fronts. They are constantly faced with different executive problems, with international affairs. Due to the nature of the work they do, being economic experts, industrial experts, and working in a political climate where there are certain movements by the mini-groups, they are constantly faced with a number of questions on international, regional and domestic levels and they

form certain opinions. We should regard these problems and these questions as something quite natural.

The same thing is true as regards the executive branch. Every step we take we are faced with certain problems. Each day we are faced with a new issue. For instance, in the past year we were faced with numerous problems that were created for our system by big powers — for reducing the price of oil, for attacking oil installations — with their extensive consequences in our factories, on our work force, our employment situation, our inflation, and so on. It is natural that each of these issues be discussed within the executive branch.

Our beloved clergy and our seminaries, in the same way that at the beginning they placed themselves in the course of the fundamental questions of the system, of the country, the system which was in the process of formation; now too they should confront these questions. By confronting these questions, I believe, first of all we will witness greater strength within the seminaries; secondly, we will witness a more healthy approach and more healthy policies toward the executive. This is not something that can be sorted out with a decree issued by one person or two or three persons, with government approval or without the government's approval. This is a necessity for the continued existence of the order of the Islamic Republic. [passage omitted]

When in the government we are faced with problems such as employment, inflation, distribution, foreign policy and so on, none of these issues are only confined to the government. Through necessity, through the pressure that the government is faced with and should solve every day, the government will find some answers and some solutions. It tries to solve its problems with the assistance of the Majlis. However, this does not answer all the needs of the country. These creative seminaries should constantly be active and find answers for the fundamental questions faced by the system. The same is true about the judiciary. I believe that there are many questions in the judiciary that should be answered by the clergy. I believe that is is a two-way process. Questions should be constantly raised and sent to the seminaries. The seminaries should be informed of the news, reports and latest problems so that they gain awareness and judgement and find answers from within the seminaries and within Islamic ideology. The seminaries should also place themselves in the path of these questions.

The second point which I think is useful to raise in such a gathering, and it is not easy to find gatherings such as this,which is one of the blessings of holding such a seminar. The point is that there are certain issues regarding the issue of the oppressed. Whenever the government raises the slogan of supporting the oppressed, we have always felt that from various corners the issues are not raised in the right way and that the views of the government concerning these issues are not clarified. For this reason, I chose this gathering to discuss some of these issues here and to clarify the beliefs and practices of the government concerning these issues. I will skim through some issues briefly and discuss some other issues in greater detail due to their importance, in connection with our esteemed and beloved clergy.

The very first issue is the question of the slogan of supporting the oppressed which is, in fact, a Koranic slogan and an Islamic slogan. It is something we have found in the utterances of his holiness the imam. The experts of our country have learned these issues from our own clergy. Nevertheless, anytime this matter is raised there is always this misunderstanding whether the slogan of supporting the oppressed is a slogan to advance an economic system which is contrary to Islam, or whether priority is given to Islam.

The issue that should be clearly separated here, and I as a very minor and insignificant figure in the executive branch wish to say to all you beloved ones, is that fact that one should not confuse the tendencies, the leanings and claims of various rightist or leftist groups and eclectic mini-groups with those of the government. If they give priority to the economics, if they attach importance to their own worldy and material yardsticks, what is important to the Islamic government is to give priority to Islam itself. We regard the support for the oppressed as an inseparable part of an Islamic government. It is not that we attach one priority to Islam and another priority to the support for the oppressed or providing them with economic assistance, and then judge Islam on the basis of that priority given to economic matters. It is not that we judge the answers which we received from Islam and from jurisprudence in connection with serving the oppressed or not. It is not that we judge Islam with our own feeble and short-sighted yardsticks, and then say whether that answer is correct or not. No, the foundation of Islamic government, and the Islamic government is only part of that greater whole, is to give priority to Islam. However, in Islam we regard the issue of justice as a principle, we regard social justice as a principle. We are confident that the Islamic government has the capability of establishing justice, in the same way that the slogan of this blessed day is the establishment of justice. What goal are we pursuing? We follow the principle that with the advent of the hidden imam, the earth which has been filled with injustice and tyranny will be filled with justice and equity. This is the most important aspect of the advent of his holiness the hidden imam. This is something that we have learned from Islam and from the Koran. Can we separate the issue of social justice from Islam? Can we put it aside and say that we believe in Islam minus social justice? It is a part of the mission of an Islamic government to establish social justice — from an economic point of view, from an executive point of view, from a political point of view — and it should have solutions and answers to all these questions.

We are not talking about the solutions. The solutions should come out of our jurisprudence, they should come out of our seminaries, they should come out of the Constitution which has been formulated by the theologians. The solutions are approved by the esteemed Council of Guardians and then passed on to us. Part of the logic of the holding of this seminar is that the seminaries wish to raise this slogan in a powerful way in our society. The support for the oppressed and paying attention to the oppressed is an inseparable part of our Islamic beliefs.

This is why when the imam of the ummah wishes to bestow an honor on the government. On the basis of this ideology, he describes the government as a servant of the oppressed. This is an honor, and we act on this basis. There is no reason why our movement and the claims and actions of the Islamic government are attributed to the movements of certain eclectic groups,

certain leftist or rightist groups that are following their own whims and the wishes of their masters.

If these two things are clearly identified and if it is understood that this government is watched by thousands and millions of eyes, and that it cannot trespass the limits that have been defined for it by Islam, then there will be greater achievements and the government will be helped more.

The second point is the very fact of keeping this slogan alive. Apart from working for the oppressed and helping them, it is an essential part of our beliefs to keep this slogan alive. It is only if we keep this slogan alive that we can keep the oppressed on our side, and will keep the hope alive in their hearts. When our factory workers know that this is a government which has committed itself to defend the oppressed, when he is faced with pressure, when he does not receive raw materials, when his salary is not paid, he remains steadfast, he gives up everything and does not demand his salary. For the sake of his belief in Islam he will take part in the war, he will sacrifice himself and will send his children, too. This means the negation of the importance of economics. Nevertheless, it is due to the fact that he regards this government as his supporter. He regards this government as an Islamic government which always chants the slogan of supporting him, that gives him respect and dignity, that puts him on top, and that calls him the master. The very fact of maintaining this slogan is very important.

Also, when we raise this slogan we announce that we are supporting the people. I have brought with me a number of very interesting figures that should be thought about in the seminaries. I only read these figures about the distribution of wealth in the country and you will see that when you talk of supporting the oppressed which groups you are talking about. It is supporting the masses of the people against the elite.

Certain figures are produced each year by the plan and budget organization. This was done before the revolution. It was stopped for a couple of years after the revolution, but was resumed. These figures reveal the level of inequality of income and distribution in the country. [passage omitted]

Here a comparison is made between the years 56 [starting from 21 March 1977] and 62 and 63 [years starting from 21 March 1983 and 1984]. The level of the wealth of the top 10 percent compared to the lowest 10 percent of the society, the poorest families, in the year 56 according to the statistics of that regime, was 32 times the wealth of the bottom 10 percent. This figure was reduced to 25 times in 62 and to 26 times in the year 63. Well, this difference of income is very high. From a fundamental point of view, we should see how we can move toward a more balanced situation, not 100 percent equality. We have Islamic methods. We have special methods in this respect. Although this figure still seems too high to us, there is a positive point in these figures: namely that the Islamic Republic has moved toward greater equality in income. [passage omitted]

Of course, I should also add that this more equitable distribution of wealth has been due to Principle 49 of the Constitution, to confiscations, to the Constitution and to other issues which the gentlemen are aware of and which have been prescribed by the jurisprudence and by Islam. [passage omitted]

When we received these figures, we had to define our value system and then define our policies. In the first instance, do we accept this excessive disparity in wealth in our country or not? This is the question that should be raised by the government and should be answered by the seminaries. Is is quite clear that Islam does not prescribe the widening of the gap between various income groups. This is one principle. The second principle is finding the solutions. [passage omitted]

When I look at the graphs of wealth and income, it is clear that I will not support the class that even under present conditions has an income which is 23, 24 or 25 times that of the lowest group. The government possesses certain facilities. It has money, it has a general budget, it has banks, why should the government not place these capabilities at the service of the 90 percent of the population? We say that this is the meaning of the slogan of support for the oppressed. Our slogan means that we wish to support the oppressed in a society that has so much economic disparity and I think this is based on our Islamic beliefs. Can an Islamic government be worthy of the name of Islam? Can it be worthy of the title of the servant of the oppressed and yet place all its support in the interests of the top 10 percent, and to say that no limitations should be made for them to increase their wealth or to harm their trade, or their industries and so forth. This is not the government's duty. Their wealth supports them. The supporters of upper classes are their wealth, their strength, their factories, their connections, their education. All these support them. Those who are poor and who do not have anything, those illiterate persons in our remote villages in Bushehr, or Baluchestan or in the south of Tehran, are the ones who should be supported. The government is dutybound to support them, and it is a duty that is placed on us by our Islamic system. [passage omitted]

There is a problem in connection with general polices of the system and the government which has been raised by our beloved clergy. In our system there is a fear about the nationalization of everything. Yes, this is a fundamental question and there is a deep-rooted anxiety about this matter and we accept this anxiety. However, we are faced with a problem here. I express my opinion as a small brother working inside the government. We see the fear concerning the nationalization of everything from two different angles. On the one hand, our clergy, our theologians, our seminaries, our faithful people, and our revolutionary people are afraid lest the government become a government that nationalizes everything, that deprives the people of their freedom, to take away their Islam, to deviate toward the East, to give rise to leftist movements in this country, to destroy Islam, to eliminate the principles of the Islamic revolution.

This fear is not only legitimate; in fact, the expression of this fear, scrutinizing this fear is essential. An Islamic government should be careful lest it might move in that direction, lest it move toward the nationalization of everything, and the nationalization of everything would mean the destruction of everything. The most important thing to us is Islam. Even if the nationalization of everything would improve the economic condition of the people — and experience has shown that the nationalization of every-

thing may not improve the economic situation — if that is achieved at the price of the destruction of Islam, if that is achieved by eliminating Islam, what would be the use of it? We did not have a revolution for that. We have said that we do not give priority to economics. For this reason, this fear is essential and should be expressed.

However, I think there is another fear that comes from a different direction: namely, the fear of the rich that their activities may be restricted. We should separate these two fears. Why do we confuse these two fears? We support a number of people and say to them: form a partnership. You are engaged in exports. Let these people also engage in exports. [passage omitted]

Immediately, as soon as we go toward this direction, certain loud voices are raised from somewhere and say: Why do you provide them with this support? This has become socialism. This is against Islam, and so forth. [passage omitted]

I don't believe that this opposition is from the religious establishment. I do not believe that this opposition is from Islam. There are two different fears here. In the eight or nine years since the revolution, have we moved toward a socialist economy? Will our clergy, our Council of Guardians, our Majlis, our Principle 90 Commission, all these anxious eyes who give their blood for the sake of Islam, allow the government to take such a step? Certainly, it is not so. We say that these two fears are quite different from one another. The first fear protects us, protects the government, and controls the policies in the Majlis. It forces the theologians to scrutinize the laws more carefully in the Council of Guardians.

However, the second fear is preventing the government from fulfilling one of its most important duties, which is to protect the oppressed members of the society and to safeguard the prestige of the Islamic revolution. We say that these two issues should be separated from each other. Joining these two fears harms the government, harms the clergy, harms a healthy economic development in our society, and in practice creates a paralysis in everything. This is something that is necessary to be said. [passage omitted]

I wish to say that even the steps that the government takes for expanding the activities of the private sector are often attacked in the guise of nationalization. [passage omitted] Our country is in need of extensive investment. It is harmful for us to have 60 percent of our industry concentrated in Tehran. The cooperatives will make the country less vulnerable. [passage omitted]

It should not be so that one province is completely empty, without any human resources, without any roads, without any capital, without any industry, but then you see that all the country's resources are concentrated in Tehran. Will this benefit the country or will it harm it? We say it is harmful to the country. This move by the government to encourage the cooperatives is not in the direction of nationalization. It is not that we are trying to put forward a thesis. No, we say that it is the prerogative of the seminaries and the clergy to provide guidance. However, these two issues should be separated. We will not accept the protests of those who are confronting the government for the sake of their own interests and accuse the government of nationalizing everything. We will confront them, and Islamic law also supports us in this. We wish to be worthy of the title of an Islamic government.

At the same time, we submit to the views of Islamic law and the views of the clergy, to the discussions of the clergy, to the verdicts of the clergy, the discussions that emanate from the seminaries, the plans that are given to us by the seminaries. We hope that attention is paid to these issues. We have learned the slogans of supporting the deprived, the slogans of supporing the people, the slogans of supporting the oppressed from the clergy, from you gentlemen. [passage omitted]

No matter how much you give to the elite they will still grumble. In times of crisis they will be the first to turn their backs on the system. The ones who stay with you and be content with the least amount are the lowest classes. This is a guidance provided to us by the clergy and by Islam; and this is natural. One of the most natural duties of an Islamic government — if it wishes to remain Islamic — is to follow the support for the oppressed and it should always pay attention to this matter. Even if at times it is ashamed and cannot do anything — there are certain things that we can do at the moment, and there are other things we cannot do; we are in a war situation and live in a critical condition — in those cases the government should tell the people that it is in the service of the people. It is humble to the people, you are our masters, and this is only the truth.

It was necessary to say these things in this important gathering, as the seminaries and the clergy were the ones who inspired the Islamic government, in order to clarify the policies of the government.

Envoy to UK Comments on Gulf, USSR Proposal

LD241550 Kuwait KUNA in English 1435 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] London, April 24 (KUNA) — A senior Iranian envoy here strongly hinted Friday that his country would not hesitate to attack commercial shipping in the Arabian Gulf, including Soviet and American flag tankers, if its own vessels were to be raided.

"Iran would continue attacks on ships in the Gulf, irrespective of the flag they carry if the Iranian people's right to free navigation in the Gulf is obstructed," the Iranian charge d'affaires in London, Mohammad Mahdi Akhunzadeh, told a news conference friday.

Akhunzadeh expressed belief that "Iranian foreign policy is geared towards the consolidation" of security and stability in the Gulf region, and added that his country "will resist any attempt to destabilize the area."

Asked by KUNA about a recent Soviet proposal to give U.N. protection to shipping in the Gulf, the envoy noted that "Iran will not allow regional issues to take international dimensions because responsibility of the Gulf security lies with the countries of the region."

Akhunzadeh said his country's relations with neighboring countries have been warming up as of late, particularly with the Soviet Union and the Arab Gulf states.

Asked whether Tehran was willing to accept a new peace initiative by the Soviet Union or the Gulf Cooperation Council, specially with the advent of the holy month of Ramadan, he said this depends on "how fair the peace offer would be." But he emphasized that any peace proposals should accommodate previously stated Iranian demands for punishing the aggressor in the Iran-Iraq conflict, now in its seventh year.

Queried on Iran's relations with the superpowers, Akhunzadeh pointed out that there has been "substantial progress" in the "friendly relations" with the Soviet Union. He explained that this was mainly the result of the visit to Moscow last month by the Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati which produced an agreement on cooperation in technology, oil and gas.

The diplomat added that a top-level Soviet delegation would soon visit Tehran to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in view of the recent resumption of the Joint State Economic Commission.

As for ties with the United States, he ruled out any improvement unless Washington dropped what he described as its hostility to the regime in Tehran and repaid some 500 million dollars owed to Iran.

Akhunzadeh, whose country was disgraced by last year's scandalous arms-for-hostages deal with the United States, said another condition for better relations with Washington is a change in the American support for Israel against the Arab states.

Majlis Delegation Leaves for Managua IPU Conference

NC231237 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] A delegation comprising six deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly led by Mr Movahedi-Savuji left for Managua, the Nicaraguan capital, this morning to attend an IPU conference to be held there.

Our correspondent reports that the topics of war, peace, and international friendship and trade will be discussed during the 6-day conference.

Before commencing its work, the IPU will hold a meeting of female delegates during which the equal rights of women and their involvement in political and social affairs will be discussed. Mrs Behruzi, Majlis deputy and member of the Iranian delegation, will discuss the outlook of Islam and of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the topic of women at that meeting.

Mr Movahedi-Savuji, head of the Majlis delegation, said the following in response to a question from our correspondent: The main topic to be discussed at the 77th IPU assembly in Managua will be war and peace in the world, particularly in the Mediterranean and the Middle East; specific areas will include Lebanon, the Arabs and Israel, and the Iran-Iraq war. A second topic will involve international trade relations and efforts to render such economic relations just. In our opinion, the most important topic of discussion is the first one. We will raise at the conference the great political and military successes that we have scored in the last year in response to the bestial acts committed by the Baghdad regime with its extensive bombing of our cities and residential areas and its use of various chemical weapons in the war. We will submit papers documenting these acts, as well as a petition signed by 80,000 students from a district in Tabriz. We hope that we will be able to defend the Islamic Republic's just positions and policies and will prompt the world's parliamentarians to listen to the just and oppressed voice of our nation.

IRGC Minister Reviews Naval Training, Shipbuilding

NC240823 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps [IRGC] Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust has inspected the progress being made in the establishment of a college for marine science and IRGC techniques in Chalus.

During his inspection, the IRGC minister announced that 20,000 Revolution Guards and members of the country's Mobilization of the Oppressed Corps had received diving and marine operations training at Navy training centers over the last year in an effort to provide and strengthen a cadre needed by the IRGC Navy.

Mr Rafiqdust stated: Last year 5,500 combat boats were built at the IRGC's factory for the construction of large vessels and more than 1,000 sea vessels were launched. He also announced that the first IRGC Navy submarine, built by navy personnel, will be launched in the near future.

The report notes that the president of the IRGC marine college declared that with the completion of this school of higher education, the IRGC marine college will accept students in navigation, marine engineering, management, support, electricity, and electronics in Mehr [month beginning 23 September].

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,815

LD231610 Tehran IRNA in English 1603 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 23, IRNA — Seven heavy and light vehicles and a tank of Iraqi forces were destroyed when their positions in Hajj 'Umran and Sardasht Operational Theaters, northwestern fronts came under Iranian artillery fire Wednesday. At least five Iraqi gun emplacements were also demolished in Marivan operational region on the same day, with enemy suffering some casualties.

Announcing the above here Thursday, Joint Staff Communique No. 2815 added that anti-aircraft fire of the Muslim combatants forced an Iraqi helicopter to flee from Sardasht Region when it attempted to evacuate its supplies on the enemy positions.

Iraqi warplanes attempted to attack Iranian positions in Marivan several times Wednesday, but were immediately forced to flee by Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

Iranian warplanes attempted to attack Iranian positions in Marivan several times Wednesday, but were immediately forced to flee by Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

Iranian patrol units successfully carried out their missions in the northwestern fronts Wednesday, while exchange of artillery fire continued in the western fronts, where all reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters as well as movements of enemy motorized columns were also checked.

An Iraqi patrol unit came under Iranian artillery fire in Qasr-e Shirin at day-break Wednesday, but was forced to flee leaving behind some casualties.

In the southern fronts, Iranian artillery and tank fire on Iraqi positions and strongholds east of Basra killed or wounded about 10 enemy soldiers in one spot alone.

IRGC Naval Battle Detailed

LD241333 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] The Joint Staff of the three services of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] announced that at 1100 yesterday, several IRGC naval vessels clashed with four gunboats of the Zionist enemy in the vicinity of (Al-Amyah) jetty. In this clash, backed by the timely and heavy shore artillery of the IRGC Navy, the combatants of Islam succeeded, in a valiant battle, in hitting one of the Zionist enemy's gunboats, killing the personnel on board and inflicting substantial damage to the gunboat.

The other three gunboats of the Zionist enemy, receiving heavy fire from the combatants of Islam, fled the scene of battle toward the Al-Bakr jetty. During this battle a number of helicopter gunships belonging to the Zionist enemy — which had been sent to the area to back the gunboats — were confronted by heavy fire from the defensive vessels of the combatants of Islam and were forced to flee the scene. In a battle that lasted nearly 4 hours, the naval vessels of the IRGC Navy deprived the Zionist enemy of any opportunity to make any moves. After putting the enemy to flight, they all returned safely to their bases.

Tudeh-Fedayeen Statement Outlines Demands

LD240532 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Joint Tudeh Party-Fedayeen-e Khalq on "Weekly Labor Program"]

[Excerpts] Iranian laborers and toilers! The Central Committee of the Fedayeen-e Khalq organization of Iran, Majority Wing, and the Central Committee of Tudeh Party of Iran warmly greet the arrival of May Day, 11 Ordibehest, the day of indestructible solidarity of world laborers and toilers to you, the untiring strugglers of the path for freedom, independence, and socialism. [passage omitted]

In the Islamic Republic, where the regime safeguards the dependent capitalism, with its medieval arrogance, marking this day of celebrations by workers has been forcefully prohibited just as in the days of the shah. The only reason behind this objection is the blatant enmity of the Islamic Republic rulers against freedom and rights for workers.

It is not suprising that after 8 years following the glorious Bahaman [begins 22 Feb] revolution, not the slightest effort is being made to improve the conditions suffered by workers. Furthermore, many union rights, gained after years of hard and bloody struggles, are openly cast aside and forgotten. [passage omitted]

The anti-worker regime of the Islamic Republic has effectively deprived workers in our country of any defensive means against repression and bullying by owners by [words indistinct] and banning of union activities as well as harsh control of workers by oppressive foundations. [passage omitted] The implementation of the inhuman policy of reducing the number of wage-earners has increased the army of the unemployed.

The Islamic Republic regime, based on its anti-democratic and reactionary economic and social policies, has taken away professional security from workers and toilers. Under the present conditions, the threat of unemployment has turned into a weapon to provide cannon fodder from among the workers and also to calm any protest or strike actions.

Most damaging to the economic conditions are the regime's policies, crowned by the war, which is the prime factor in closing down workshops and factories, as well as unprecedented threats to family life, and self-estrangement and ruination of moral virtues of the society.

Heroic workers and toilers of Iran, we must and can end the scorching war and slaughter of youth and young children, further damage to the country, and halt the increase in unemployment, poverty and despair of families by assisting in regional and world peace efforts.

We must renew our forces and rely on strengthening unity among workers from industrial units, unemployed and sacked workers, as well as other toilers, using various methods of action such as sit-ins, strikes, protests, and marches to stop the war machine of the regime. All progressive and peace-loving forces in the world are your supporters in this struggle. [passage omitted]

Heroic workers and toilers of Iran, your most important demands in political, union, and welfare matters at this juncture of struggles against the anti-worker regime of vice-regency of jurisconsult, are as follows:

1. An immediate end to the war.
2. Release of political prisoners.
3. Democratic rights.

4. Official status for independent unions and associations for workers.
5. Labor law and a progressive welfare law with the participation of true representatives of the workers.
6. Wage increases in line with increasing costs.
7. Application of a progressive classification system.
8. Medical care as well as free education.
9. Proper housing and expansion of housing and consumers' cooperatives for workers.

Victory in realizing the above demand will depend on your organization and setup. Support the vanguards of the Iranian workers strata and strengthen your struggling ranks to topple the Islamic Republic regime and to transfer power to the masses.

Once again, we congratulate you, the army of toil and work, on the arrival of May Day and wish victory for you in the struggle against the reactionary and warmongering regime. [passage omitted]

VII. WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
VIII. SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT; contents include: International Affairs Inter-African Affairs Central Africa Burundi Cameroon Central African Republic Congo Equatorial Guinea Gabon Rwanda Sao Tome & Principe Zaire East Africa Djibouti Ethiopia Kenya Somalia Tanzania Uganda Indian Ocean Comoros Madagascar Mauritius Seychelles Southern Africa Angola Botswana Lesotho Malawi Mozambique Namibia Republic of South Africa Reunion Swaziland Zambia Zimbabwe Western Africa Benin Burkina Faso Cape Verde Islands The Gambia Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Ivory Coast Liberia Mali Niger Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone Togo

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